

From: [Alex Schubert](#)
To: [Julie Reeves](#)
Subject: RE: RMP revisions concerning GSG and Transmission lines
Date: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 3:57:55 PM

Thanks Julie!
Alex
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From: Reeves, Julie [mailto:julie_reeves@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 3:29 PM
To: Alex Schubert
Cc: Tyler Abbott; Lynn Gemlo
Subject: RMP revisions concerning GSG and Transmission lines

Hi, Alex,

This follows along the lines of what the Service has been recommending for transmission structures about sage-grouse. I know UT has been asking for 4 mile buffers from leks, and so this is something that may need further discussion regarding the buffer currently being suggested in the RMP revision. Let me know if you have any questions.

p. 8, item 24 states, "All new transmission and distribution towers/structures should be designed to include raptor proofing/deterrents."

Consider adding in something like: "*Structures that pose less of a collision risk (eg. tubular H-frame, self-support lattice towers, and those that do not utilize guy wires) should be installed when power lines are installed within core habitat or within (x#-use 0.6 or whatever measure was being used in earlier paragraph) miles from leks. Existing guy wires within those areas should be removed or appropriately marked with bird flight diverters to make them more visible to sage-grouse in flight. Structures that provide less suitable perching opportunities for raptors/corvids should be installed, or existing towers should be retrofitted with perch deterrents to limit sage-grouse predation.*"

References:

WO BLM IM 2010-022 mentions the risk of collision for GSG by guy wires: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/Instruction_Memos_and_Bulletins/national_instruction/2010/TM_2010-022.html

Al Manville wrote a manuscript about communication towers/bird strikes http://library.fws.gov/Bird_Publications/tower_collisions00.htm

APLIC's 2012 Reducing Avian Collisions manual says, "Because of the collision risk posed by guyed communication towers (e.g., Shire et al. 2000; Manville 2007a; Gehring et al. 2009; Gehring et al. 2011; Longcore et al. 2012), the question of collision risk associated with guyed power line structures has occasionally been asked. Guy wires on power line structures are used for support and stability especially where a line ends (deadend structure) or changes direction (e.g., makes a 90-degree turn)."

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We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. ~Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac